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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Albert F. Root, Commissioner — Chadwick H. Smith, Chairman — Zaal R. McClure, Commissioner
Mitchell Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana

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More Workers Employed, March Sets New Record

"Back to work" was sounded in March for the first of the seasonal workers laid off last fall and winter in Montana's non-farm industries. Result as of March 15 was an increase of 500 in employed workers in the state, the first step toward re-employment of nearly 20,000 counted in the working force last August. Since March 15 the upward trend appears to have gained momentum, but is not reflected in March figures.

Seven-Year Gain is Nine Percent

March estimates, just completed by the commission staff in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, show 158,-300 on industrial payrolls as of the 15th, an increase of 500 from February and 4,100 more than in March of 1956, previous tops for that period. Average March employment, 1950 to 1956, is 144,800, indicating the substantial, nine percent increase in Montana employment during that seven-year space.

Seasonal Upturn Measures 500

Seasonal employment gains of 500, February to March, included 100 in the manufacturing division, 300 in contract construction, 300 in wholesale and retail trade, and 200 in service industries. These were partially offset by reduction of 200 in mining employment, a 100 sag in transportation, 100 in government, and a balanced count in finance and insurance.

Most Industries Ahead of Year Ago

Comparison with employment of a year ago, reflecting the long-term trend upward, shows a net gain of 4,100, largely centered in contract construction with 1,400, various governmental functions at 900, wholesale and retail trade 700, and the mining division 500. Manufacturing held even with a year ago while transportation was down 200.

Mixed Trends in Manufacturing

The manufacturing stalemate grew out of weakness of markets in lumber and logging, which declined 600 in employment from a year ago, and food processing, with a 100 deficit. Erasing this adverse 700 was a gain of the same number in processing of primary metals, where a shorter work week requires a more liberal staffing pattern than was in use a year ago.

Oil Employment Is Up

Much of the mining gain was credited to production of petroleum and natural gas, with 400 more on the payroll this March than last. Metal mining also is up 100 over the same period. Wholesale trade employed 400 more this March, while retail trade was adding 300. In the government total, federal employment gained 200, state and local numbers went up 700.

LABOR SURPLUS SHRINKS BY TEN PERCENT DURING MARCH, IS 3,000 ABOVE AVERAGE

Re-opening of seasonal jobs in Montana during March reduced the overall labor surplus figure by ten percent, a better than average showing at this period, but still leaving a ponderous 15,000 of job-applicants to be absorbed. Local offices of the employment service had 14,930 active job-applicants at the close of March, three thousand above the average figure over the eight preceding March counts and 2,300 more than were seeking work a year ago.

15,000 Jobseekers Listed in State

Field reports indicate that the back-to-work movement, an annual phenomenon at this season in Montana, has barely begun, with employment demands expected to cut steadily into the existing surplus of manpower through April, May, and June. While the present surplus of 15,000 exceeds the supply in all recent years, it finds a parallel in 1950, when the March job applicants numbered 16,085, or 1,100 more than this March. That huge surplus in 1950 melted from March to August by 13,500, for an absorption rate of 85 percent. A similar rate of absorption this year would reduce the jobseeker count to about 2,250, which is about the lowest point the manpower supply figure ever reaches.

Work-Applicant Count in Review

	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
February	16,995	13,061	12,304	12,455	10,995	10,136	12,336
March	14,930	12,663	11,979	11,075	9,323	9,392	10,844
April	10,500*	7,974	9,227	8,945	6,043	5,705	7,048
June		4,694	5,274	5,403	3,910	2,957	4,240
August		2,808	2,458	3,519	2,069	1,619	2,370
October		3,753	3,348	4,038	2,688	1,955	2,572
December		10,325	9,351	8,613	7,932	7,517	6,694

*Estimated.

Most Seasonal Industries Expanding

All of Montana's major seasonal industries, save one, give promise of expanding their employment payrolls to record levels as seasonal work is resumed. The one exception is the lumber and logging group, where consumer demands weakened perceptibly last summer and fall and in which current market offers give but scant encouragement to hopes for return to the high seasonal employment levels of a year ago. This state is not alone in its lumber employment problem, however, as neighboring states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho report substantial slackening of employment in the timber industries.

Construction Hiring Outlook Good

The construction industry is in prime position to pick up any slack resulting from lumber decline, with many of its principal projects carrying over into this season, and with a substantial number of new starts in sight. Paradoxically, the lumber industry is to furnish a construction demand of its own. Work is already under way on one plant for reduction of waste wood products into pulp, at least two more are projected and may be in the employment state this season. Missoula is getting the state's first pulp and paper mill, while another is probable in the Libby-Troy area, and still another at Whitefish.

Diversity of Active Projects

Extensive construction labor demands will arise from power dam projects and buildings at Thompson Falls, Great Falls, Sidney; from airbase construction and facilities at Glasgow, Great Falls, Billings; shops at Livingston; radar facilities at Lewistown; a second power plant at Fort Peck; five million dollars worth of new bridges and 500 miles of new highway construction distributed over the state; countless school buildings for grades, high school, and colleges, also well distributed; and commercial plants, office buildings, residences and housing projects in principal population centers.

Highway Work Gaining Momentum

Call-backs to jobs on state highway contracts began to gain momentum in March, employment rising from 111 at the opening of the month to 334 at its close. A year ago the rise was from 150 to 317 in the corresponding period. Skeleton crews were put together on many projects which will require substantial force increases in April and May. Seasonal high in such employment was reached last August with 1,600 on payrolls.

Many Bridges and Roads Involved

Road contracts covering 111 miles of highway and 4.5 millions of dollars worth of bridges were coming to life during March, with a backlog on which work is still to resume consisting of contracts on 318 miles of highway and $850,000 worth of bridges. Maintenance work on the highways occupied 730 workers in March, as compared with 719 a year earlier.

Two Metal Mines Closed

Mining employment faces a disturbing note in the closing of two important units in the Butte area, though the miners affected were all transferred into other plants. Production costs as related to current market rates were named as responsible for the shift. Meanwhile the block-mining development in that area is expanding.

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Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary April 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(149 jobseekers, 57 new; 73 men, 76 women). Seasonal employment conditions still prevail, no substantial demand in any direction as yet. Employers in trade are waiting for construction, tourist traffic, farm operations, and other outdoor occupations to stimulate commercial needs. Smelter holding steady in employment, with small turnover.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,068 jobseekers, 444 new; 1,650 men, 418 women). Resumption of hiring activity in the building industry, in railroad work and on the farm, deferred until April by March weather. Meanwhile more layoffs have occurred in retail trade. With settled weather brisk hiring is expected in all seasonal industries, particularly for the extensive building program and carryover from December. More transients than usual, indicates shortage of work in other areas.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(605 jobseekers, 110 new; 443 men, 162 women). Work continues on high school and college building projects, mostly inside finishing. Bridge contract begun, crew will be expanded shortly. Logging and pulpwood shipping are hampered by soft roads, especially in the woods areas. Farm orders have begun to come in; looks like early shortage of farm couples and experienced farm help; other labor supplies in area are adequate.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(817 jobseekers, 331 new; 524 men, 293 women). Closing two mines and partially closing another stirred the community during March. Most of the miners affected were transferred to other plants but some unskilled help has been released, tightening up the economy. Work will start in April on the first of two mining shafts to be sunk this summer. Wage negotiations at the phosphate plant caused layoff of about 200 men in that industry. Highway and other building work slow in starting.

CUT BANK—(416 jobseekers, 53 new; 336 men, 80 women). Very little construction has started up after the winter layoff, though two contractors have moved into the oil field. Many oil drill crews were still idle as April opened. Farm hiring in March was below normal for that season.

DILLON—(309 jobseekers, 71 new; 253 men, 56 women). Building of new truck route around city and finishing of Jackson road await settled weather. Crew of ten started on college building improvements. One phosphate mine resuming after winter shutdown, another is still snowed in. About 100 workers will be used. Spring farm operations opening, already short farm cooks, couples, and irrigators.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(526 jobseekers, 79 new; 438 men, 88 women). Construction hiring is not opening with its accustomed vigor, very little activity at the new air base yet. Assurance is given that employment there will rise to better than 300 in April, mostly in concrete work. A bank and two service stations in town completed; six residences are on inside work. New electrical building started. The second power plant project at Fort Peck is getting under way, will use about 50 workers in April.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(208 jobseekers, 104 new; 164 men, 44 women). Oil field hiring was active in March, though construction was delayed by adverse weather. Railroad shop layoffs continue, most of those displaced have been re-absorbed in other work. Ample moisture has stimulated farm hiring for spring and summer.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,294 jobseekers, 305 new; 973 men, 321 women). About 100 are employed on the new power dam, will use more as the season advances. Active hiring expected on street job, connecting roads, building of air base facilities, school building, and housing units. Smelters are offering some overtime, though stil on five-day week, to stem increasing turnover. Farm hiring has reduced supply of experienced help, some shortage foreseen.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(648 jobseekers, 86 new; 501 men, 147 women). Supply of labor nearly doubled from year ago, largely due to lumber industry in which price levels still cast doubt on seasonal resumption at full scale. One sawmill closed, one cut its force in two, and three logging outfits closed up in March, affecting about 100 employees. Construction is also slowed down, giving tight money as reason.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(424 jobseekers, 116 new; 346 men, 78 women). No railroad hiring for extra gangs yet, but expect by May. Construction crews are being called back for the season. About 20 new homes, a school, and a new dormitory at the college are on the construction program, along with remodeling of a club building, and home improvements.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(679 jobseekers, 241 new; 607 men, 72 women). Only a fraction of outside work has started after the winter shutdowns. About 25 are on the new tunnel job, in three shifts; will use 15 more in April. Contract on the main water distribution system will be let in April. Small mines in the area are opening up as snow conditions permit, after a winter of idleness. Sawmill and logging resumption not certain yet, due to market conditions.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(2,323 jobseekers, 314 new; 1,999 men, 324 women). Spring break-up has added to the layoffs in lumber and logging, already plagued by uncertainty resulting from the market levels. Construction is slow in getting started for the season but made some headway in late March, with prospect of further advances in April. Some hiring for trade and service began in late March.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(278 jobseekers, 84 new; 231 men, 47 women). Agricultural demand for workers has begun, and shortages already loom. Construction of radar station expected to begin in April, and a big road job is to start about the same time. Several temporary shutdowns in March. Gypsum plant making slight crew reduction. Hiring for trade and service is behind normal schedule.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(350 jobseekers, 57 new; 266 men, 84 women). Slight increase in construction employment occurred during March, with resumption of work on the railroad shops in Livingston and the Canyon construction project in the park. Both will be using more workers as the season advances. Start was made on a new bridge contract, with a small crew. It, too, will expand its crew in April. Saw-

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	March 1957	Feb. 1957	March 1956	March Avg. 1950-1956
Industrial Employment	158,300	157,800	154,200	144,800
New Job Applicants	3,214	3,921	3,364	2,828
Job Applicants, End of Month	14,930	16,695	12,663	11,623

Insured Unemployment—	April 5 1957	March 8 1957	April 6 1956	Avg. 1st April Wk. 1950-1956
New and Renewal Claims	1,039	979	676	635
Unemployed Weeks Filed	8,853	12,074	7,233	7,013
Total Unemployment Claims	9,892	13,053	7,909	7,648

EIGHT YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1950	133.2	132.2	135.2	142.1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0
1951	141.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
1952	140.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.2
1953	145.8	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	157.6	156.4	154.2
1954	146.7	145.5	147.2	151.1	155.7	161.6	164.1	165.4	154.8	153.9	158.2	155.7	155.0
1955	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	168.2	170.4	169.8	165.9	162.4	160.3	159.8
1956	154.3	152.1	154.2	160.7	167.0	175.0	175.7	177.5	176.9	173.6	167.9	165.2	166.7
1957	159.0	157.8	158.3										

Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary April 1

(Continued from previous page)

mills continue operations, though most loggers are idle because of road conditions. Farm orders beginning to develop, mostly for future hires.

MILES CITY, Baker, Broadus, Ekalaka, Colstrip, Forsyth, Jordan, Terry—(450 jobseekers, 124 new; 376 men, 74 women). Employment on the big bridge construction jobs has been stepped up with moderation of weather, further increases are expected during April. New school building starting, other construction resuming after winter shutdowns.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,395 jobseekers, 317 new; 1,110 men, 285 women). Resumption of outdoor work after winter hibernation was hindered by March weather but started emphatically late in month. Construction and retail trade crews being strengthened. Lumber and logging still hampered by soft roads, and by weakness of market demand, full resumption contingent upon stronger price levels. Plant at Superior resumed operation after short layoff. Work progressing on new pulp mill and several bridge contracts, will increase crews as weather settles.

POLSON—(497 jobseekers, 73 new; 435 men, 62 women). Resumption of employment at plywood plant and sawmill eased jobless pressure in March, logging crews still at low ebb because of soft roads. New business construction started and replacement of sidewalks will furnish summer employment. Road contract up for contract in April.

SHELBY, Chester, Conrad—(354 jobseekers, 63 new; 301 men, 53 women). Some building construction has resumed after winter layoff, work on road contracts to start early in April. New oil drilling locations will be calling for workers during the month. Farm employment demand exceeds the qualified supply, transient flow not up to normal proportions.

SIDNEY—(352 jobseekers, 70 new; 317 men, 35 women). A few call-backs on the power plant construction job, further employment increase indicated for April. Letting of road contract promises a start by May, while five new residences are slated for early construction. Farm employers became active in late March.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(432 jobseekers, 57 new; 379 men, 53 women). Labor supply subsantially greater than year ago. Most sawmills are closed for lack of logs or for overhaul. Logging operations stagnant until roads dry. Construction contractors foiled by weather in attempts to get work started, though the new post office building is under way. Two sub-contractors on Noxon dam are hiring,

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(356 jobseekers, 58 new; 301 men, 55 women). Some inroads into winter accumulation of applicants resulted from call-backs by building contractors and hiring of sales and service workers in stores and cafes. Oil field operations continued at February level. Highway construction program to get started in April, will absorb present supply of truck and equipment operators. Expect to have surplus of carpenters and helpers. Experienced farm labor in short supply, few transients appearing.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	March 1957 (2)	Feb. 1957 (3)	March 1956	Feb. '57 to Mar. '57	Mar. '56 to Mar. '57
NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	158,300	157,800	154,200	500	4,100
Manufacturing	19,500	19,400	19,500	100	0
Durable goods	12,500	12,400	12,400	100	100
Lumber and timber products	6,100	6,100	6,700	0	— 600
Primary metals	5,200	5,100	4,500	100	700
Other (4)	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Nondurable goods	7,000	7,000	7,100	0	— 100
Food and kindred products	3,200	3,200	3,300	0	— 100
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Other (5)	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
Mining	12,600	12,800	12,100	— 200	500
Metal mining	8,900	9,000	8,800	— 100	100
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	800	900	800	— 100	0
Petroleum-natural gas production	2,900	2,900	2,500	0	400
Contract Construction	8,700	8,400	7,300	300	1,400
Contractors, building construction	3,100	2,900	2,900	200	200
Contractors, other than building	2,200	2,000	1,800	200	400
Contractors, special trade	3,400	3,500	2,600	— 100	800
Transportation and utilities	20,500	20,600	20,700	— 100	— 200
Interstate railroads	11,100	11,100	11,700	0	— 600
Transportation except railroads	3,700	3,800	3,600	— 100	100
Utilities including communication	5,700	5,700	5,400	0	300
Trade	39,700	39,400	39,000	300	700
Wholesale trade	9,200	9,100	8,800	100	400
Retail trade	30,500	30,300	30,200	200	300
General merchandise and apparel	5,700	5,600	6,100	100	— 400
Food stores	4,800	4,900	4,400	— 100	400
Eating and drinking establishments	7,500	7,300	7,100	200	400
Automotive and filling stations	6,100	6,100	6,000	0	100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,400	6,400	6,600	0	— 200
Finance, insurance and real estate	5,800	5,800	5,500	0	300
Services and miscellaneous	20,700	20,500	20,200	200	500
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,600	2,500	2,500	100	100
Personal services	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	100
Other (6)	15,900	15,800	15,600	100	300
Government	30,800	30,900	29,900	— 100	900
Federal	7,400	7,400	7,200	0	200
State and local	23,400	23,500	22,700	— 100	700
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	19,100	18,700	18,200	400	900
Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	2,800	0	300
Contract construction	1,200	1,100	1,200	100	0
Transportation and utilities	2,300	2,400	2,300	— 100	0
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,200	5,900	5,900	300	300
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,800	3,700	3,600	100	200
Government	2,500	2,500	2,400	0	100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from sample of 588 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 985 such stablishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET TRANSACTIONS IN MARCH, 1957 AND MARCH, 1956

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								U. I. Claims Wk. 4-5	
	Mar. 1957		Mar. 1956		Mar. 1957		Mar. 1956		March, 1957				March, 1956					
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1957	1956
Anaconda	57	14	59	21	149	29	210	66	45	10	55	18	34	32	66	27	122	97
Billings	444	154	454	156	2,068	679	1,625	654	290	55	345	149	357	70	427	243	1,327	817
Bozeman	110	33	133	37	605	183	553	195	77	14	91	28	123	43	166	51	295	249
Butte	331	100	265	81	817	205	696	193	129	13	142	69	307	13	320	103	605	397
Cut Bank	53	19	67	27	416	181	256	141	24	11	35	20	24	37	61	12	194	169
Dillon	71	33	52	16	309	120	108	29	29	65	94	61	36	61	97	26	163	75
Glasgow	79	31	92	49	526	190	494	211	61	60	121	55	103	49	152	72	340	228
Glendive	104	33	167	48	208	69	221	67	135	34	169	73	157	51	208	83	103	108
Great Falls	305	101	416	120	1,294	455	981	372	276	86	362	122	293	150	443	160	806	620
Hamilton	86	34	104	38	648	172	365	129	9	14	23	10	34	11	45	23	362	286
Havre	116	49	113	29	424	181	417	183	69	82	151	68	162	61	223	109	233	236
Helena	241	98	134	49	679	296	571	228	97	26	123	43	102	34	136	42	461	325
Kalispell	314	118	385	144	2,323	887	2,307	809	75	9	84	28	68	31	99	30	1,966	1,595
Lewistown	84	27	106	43	278	107	261	96	23	24	47	11	74	47	121	55	190	154
Livingston	57	28	102	28	350	73	464	132	27	17	44	20	32	9	41	11	298	310
Miles City	124	33	102	30	450	182	301	129	85	34	119	39	96	39	135	52	266	258
Missoula	317	105	293	134	1,395	548	1,189	464	69	19	88	39	114	50	164	45	739	748
Polson	73	25	79	24	497	176	452	164	101	21	122	43	84	7	91	31	476	384
Shelby	63	21	40	19	354	151	290	108	39	428	467	27	97	10	107	34	177	137
Sidney	70	17	74	13	352	115	338	107	32	8	40	10	61	45	106	37	185	184
Thomp. Falls	57	23	73	24	432	142	307	88	30	—	30	13	16	—	16	9	336	374
Wolf Point	58	21	54	18	356	129	257	125	34	13	47	20	51	18	69	27	248	158
TOTALS	3,214	1,117	3,364	1,148	14,930	5,270	12,663	4,690	1,756	1,043	2,799	966	2,425	868	3,293	1,282	9,892	7,909

*Includes 341 claims of Federal Employees UC Program, 289 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. (1) 1957	Feb. (2) 1957	Mar. 1956	Mar. (1) 1957	Feb. (2) 1957	Mar. 1956	Mar. (1) 1957	Feb. (2) 1957	Mar. 1956
All Manufacturing	$ 87.11	$ 87.11	$ 89.96	39.4	39.4	41.2	$2.21	$2.21	$2.18
Durable goods	87.58	87.66	91.84	39.8	40.1	42.5	2.20	2.19	2.16
Primary metals	90.63	90.63	97.12	40.4	40.4	44.5	2.24	2.24	2.18
Nondurable goods	86.17	85.84	86.85	38.5	37.8	39.1	2.24	2.27	2.22
Food and kindred products	71.77	69.58	70.73	39.6	38.2	39.6	1.81	1.82	1.79
All Mining	94.02	94.42	101.79	38.6	38.7	42.3	2.44	2.44	2.40
Metal mining	90.79	90.79	101.99	38.2	38.2	42.9	2.38	2.38	2.38
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.)	85.99	83.59	81.50						
Transportation (except railroads)	100.10	97.61	95.72						
Utilities and communication	79.24	76.75	74.55	40.1	39.1	40.1	1.98	1.96	1.86

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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